

WHEREAS; originally conceived of by civil rights leader Booker T. Washington in 1915, April has been officially observed across the United States as National Minority Health Month since 2001; and

WHEREAS; National Minority Health Month strives to be an inclusive effort to recognize and raise awareness of the unique health needs and challenges experienced by communities of color, including Black, Hispanic and Latino, Asian American and Pacific Islander, and Indigenous communities, with the goal of encouraging meaningful action through robust partnerships, health education, early detection, and control of disease complications; and

WHEREAS; in Wisconsin, significant disparities in access to healthcare and health outcomes persist in communities of color, resulting in increased healthcare, social, and economic costs, lower life expectancies, and reduced quality of life among people of color in the state; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin is among the worst states in the nation when it comes to disparities in maternal and birth outcomes by race, with Black mothers, for example, being five times more likely than their white, non-Hispanic peers to die from complications of pregnancy and childbirth; and

WHEREAS; disparities in health outcomes are not the consequence of individual choices but, rather, are rooted in centuries of systemic racism in the healthcare system and perpetuated by factors such as family income, place of residence, educational opportunities, access to affordable healthcare, lack of or inadequate health insurance, and racism, bias, and discrimination in treatment settings; and

WHEREAS; this year's National Minority Health Month theme, "Better Health Through Better Understanding," highlights the need for culturally and linguistically competent healthcare services, information, and resources across the state in order to empower communities of color to create healthier outcomes for themselves and their communities; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin joins the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, along with dedicated individuals and organizations throughout the state, in reaffirming its commitment to expanding access to quality healthcare and education in communities of color, working toward the elimination of existing disparities in healthcare and health outcomes, and centering health equity in its work so that all Wisconsinites—regardless of race, ethnicity, or ZIP code—have the opportunity to be as healthy as possible;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim April 2023 as

NATIONAL MINORITY HEALTH MONTH

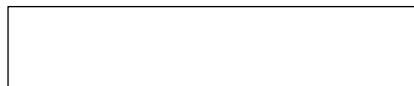
throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance
to all our state's residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 24th day of March 2023.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State